

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNDP EAID UNV AORG

SUBJ: UNDP 22ND GOVERNING COUNCIL: UNV WRAP-UP (ITEM 7)

REF: GENEVA 4995

1.SUMMARY: UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS COVERED DURING
GENERAL DEBATE ON UNDP ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (ITEM 4).
COORDINATOR GORDON OUTLINED MODEST INCREASE IN VOLUNTEERS
AND IMPROVING ORIENTATION TOWARD LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
DURING 1975, BUT CONCENTRATED HIS PRESENTATION UPON
LIMITATIONS IMPOSED CURRENTLY AND IN FUTURE BY UNDER-
FINANCING. COUNCIL GENERALLY FAVORABLE TOWARD PROGRAM
BUT WILLING TO ENDORSE ONLY STOPGAP MEASURES TO MAINTAIN
VIABILITY. DEBATE, FOLLOWING LEAD OF COORDINATOR,
FOCUSSED UPON FINANCIAL ISSUE ALTHOUGH SOME DELEGATIONS
PUSHED SUCCESSFULLY FOR AN EXPANDED UNV ROLE IN DOMESTIC
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES. DECISION PROVIDED FOR LIMITED USE
OF UNDP PROGRAM RESERVE AND OF SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND
VICE IPF-FUNDING. PUSH GIVEN IN FIELD OF DOMESTIC
SERVICES. END SUMMARY

2. ORIENTATION: COORDINATOR GORDON REPORTED INCREASE
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IN UNV FIELD PLACEMENTS FROM 250 TO 300 OVER PAST

YEAR WITH HIGHER PERCENTAGE NOW BEING ASSIGNED TO LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. VOLUNTEERS RECRUITED FROM LDC'S ROSE FROM 40 TO 47 PERCENT. HE ASSURED COUNCIL THAT UNV IS CONCENTRATING ITS EFFORTS IN THE MOST DISADVANTAGED COUNTRIES AND ON THE NEEDIEST GROUPS THEREIN. BRIEFLY MENTIONED WERE ABSORPTION OF SOME FORMER ISVS SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT OF DOMESTIC SERVICES PROGRAMS IN LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA. PROGRAM ORIENTATION ENDORSED BY COUNCIL.

3. FINANCES: FOCUS OF HIS REPORT AND OF ENSUING DEBATE WAS INHIBITING EFFECT OF UNDERFINANCING WHICH WAS BLAMED FOR FAILURE TO REACH GOAL OF 500 UNV PLACEMENTS. GORDON ASSERTED THAT RAISING UNV PLACEMENTS TO 400 BY END 1976 WOULD EXHAUST CURRENT FUNDS. MINIMUM (400 UNV) PROGRAM WOULD REQUIRE \$2.5 MILLION IN 1977 AND IN 1978 WHILE FULL (500 UNV) PROGRAM WOULD REQUIRE \$3 MILLION IN 1977 AND \$3.3 MILLION IN 1978.

4. FUNDING: CALLING FOR EXTENSION THROUGH 1977 OF SUPPORT FOR UNV FROM UNDP PROGRAM RESERVE AT ANNUAL RATE OF \$1 MILLION, GORDON ALSO URGED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND. ALTHOUGH CLAIMING THAT REQUESTS FROM COUNTRIES WHERE VOLUNTEERS WERE FINANCED FROM IPF'S HAD FALLEN DRASTICALLY, GORDON CONSTRAINED TO SEEK ENDORSEMENT OF CHARGING IN-COUNTRY COSTS TO IPFS FOR ALL NEW PLACEMENTS AFTER JAN 1, 1979. COUNCIL, WHILE REGRETTING LIMITATIONS ON UNV PROGRAMMING, RECOGNIZED EXISTING CONSTRAINTS AND OFFERED NO VIABLE SOLUTIONS. LDCS SOUGHT TO AVOID CHARGING UNV IN-COUNTRY COSTS TO IPFS BUT ACCEPTED INEVITABILITY OF THIS SOLUTION. DURING DEBATE, INTENTIONS TO CONTRIBUTE OR INCREASE CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND WERE ANNOUNCED BY AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, NETHERLANDS (\$125,000 FOR 1976) SWITZERLAND AND U.S. NETHERLANDS OUTLINED ELABORATE INDUCEMENT SCHEME BASED UPON NUMBER OF UNVS AND PERCENTAGE IN OR RECRUITED FROM LDCS INVOLVING A 1977 CONTRIBUTION RANGING FROM \$125,000 TO \$235,000.

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5. DEBATE: UNV AS DISCRETE ACTIVITY WAS SLIGHTED BY BEING THROWN INTO GENERAL DEBATE IN WHOLLY UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO SPEED UP COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS. MOST POSITIVE FEATURE OF DEBATE WERE STATEMENTS BY FAO AND WHO WARMLY PRAISING UNV. QUALITY OF VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR LOW COST IS ENCOURAGING AGENCIES TO PLAN GREATER USE IN FUTURE. OF THOSE DELEGATIONS GIVING MORE THAN PASSING ATTENTION TO UNV, CONSENSUS WAS VERY

FAVORABLE TO UNV ENDEAVORS IF NOT VERY HELPFUL IN REGARD TO FUNDING PROBLEMS. AT END OF COUNCIL SESSION, RAPPORTEUR ANNOUNCED THAT HENCEFORTH SUBJECTS SUCH AS UNV WOULD BE HANDLED SEPARATELY.

6. DECISIONS: FULL TEXT OF DECISIONS ON UNV REPORTED SEPTEL. INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT FINAL VERSION INCLUDED CALL FOR EXPANDED ROLE IN FIELD OF DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, PARTIALLY TO TAKE UP SLACK RESULTING FROM ISVS DEMISE. THIS ADDITION TO ORIGINAL TEXT REPORTED REFTEL WAS SPONSORED BY AUSTRIA, LESOTHO, MALI, NETHERLANDS AND PHILIPPINES AND FLOATED AT END OF SESSION. COORDINATOR AMENDED ORIGINAL PROPOSAL REGARDING FUNDING OF IN-COUNTRY COSTS OUT OF IPF RESULTING IN TIMING EXPRESSED AS "BY 1978" VICE "AFTER 1 JANUARY 1979" WITH EXPLANATION THAT CURRENT RESOURCES WOULD NOT ADMIT OF PROPOSED DELAY. ABRAMS

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